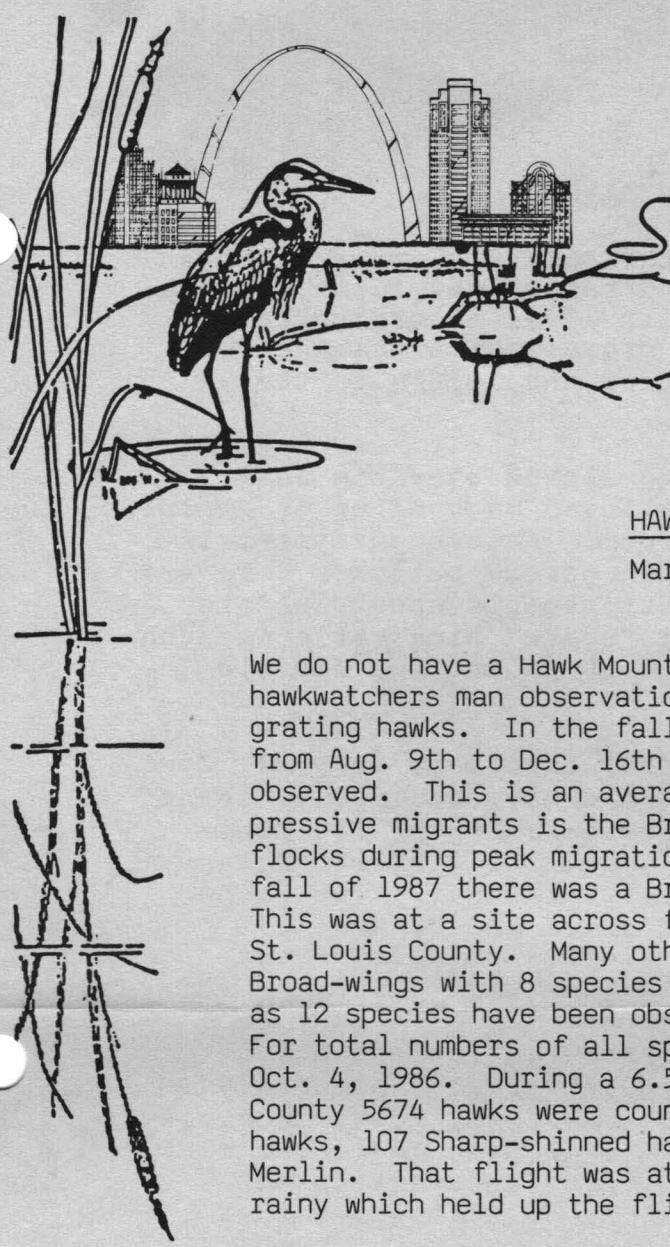


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Saint Louis Audubon Society

HAWKWATCH

Mark Peters

We do not have a Hawk Mountain in the St. Louis area, but a few interested hawkwatchers man observation sites each fall identifying and counting migrating hawks. In the fall of 1987 they spent 219 hours of observation from Aug. 9th to Dec. 16th during which time 5245 migrating hawks were observed. This is an average of 24 hawks per hour. One of the most impressive migrants is the Broad-winged hawk which often migrates in large flocks during peak migration time of roughly Sept. 20th to 30th. In the fall of 1987 there was a Broad-wing count of 2193 individuals on Sept. 22nd. This was at a site across from the entrance to Tyson Research Center in St. Louis County. Many other hawk species are typically mixed in with the Broad-wings with 8 species being an average on a good day although as many as 12 species have been observed locally with the potential for even more. For total numbers of all species the record local fall flight occurred on Oct. 4, 1986. During a 6.5 hour watch from a site in northern Jefferson County 5674 hawks were counted. The flight included 5419 Broad-winged hawks, 107 Sharp-shinned hawks, 9 Osprey, 4 Peregrine falcons, and 2 Merlin. That flight was atypically late, but that year was excessively rainy which held up the flight until the cold front of Oct. 4th.

Does any of this whet your appetite to develop or test your skills at identifying migrating hawks? ~~Yes,~~ come join us at one or both of the following scheduled activities. No experience is necessary, but some study before attendance is highly recommended. A hawk identification work-shop will be held Sept. 15th at the Audubon Nature Center in Crescent, Mo. designed for beginners and the more experienced alike. This will be followed by a hawkwatch Sept. 23rd. See calender of events for details regarding both events. Hopefully, at the hawkwatch on Sept 23rd on the hillside across from the main entrance to Tyson Research Center we will be inundated with hawks and can develop hands-on hawk identification skills.

It should be noted that hawks migrate rather high making identification necessary by size, shape, light/dark plumage contrast and flight characteristics. To get the most from the workshop and the hawkwatch study these points not only for the major groups of raptors (Buteos, Accipiter, Falcons, etc.), but also for the individual species likely to be encountered: Turkey Vultures, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Coopers Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel.

Come join us - no matter what your past experience!

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Our chapter has a long and distinguished history since it began as the St. Louis Bird Club in 1916 and became the first National Audubon Chapter in the United States in 1944. According to several of our longtime members, our organization was the most active St. Louis conservation group from the 1920's to the 1960's.

However, our chapter's activities have slowed over the last twenty years. Why? Television has allowed many of us to explore nature from the wilds of our living room. Nature enjoyment is but one of dozens of recreations we can pursue outdoors. We are continually being bombarded with advertisements about leisure time activities. What we do with our "spare" time reflects much upon what things we feel are important to us and our families. What is important to you?

Is the wise use of our natural resources important to you? Some of us in our organization think it is and have decided to invest a portion of our "spare" time and energies into the St. Louis Audubon Society. But what direction should we pursue? Rather than running with one idea or another, we thought it would be best to collect ideas, formulate some goals and do some prioritizing. We have outlined this process in a five-year strategic plan.

High priorities in this plan include conservation education activities such as supplying Audubon Adventures, a bimonthly nature newspaper for elementary school children, to at least 1000 St. Louis area classrooms by 1994. We also plan to become more actively involved in conservation projects important to our members. We also want to offer the kinds of activities that appeal to the majority of our members.

How do we find out what types of activities our members would like to do, what conservation projects are important and if any members want to help us take conservation into the classroom? ASK! Attached to this sheet is a survey form that we would like you to fill out. We value your input! We plan on improving the communication within our chapter, and this is our first genuine attempt at some interaction. We also plan to have quarterly membership meetings to allow more exchange of information. If these help us to communicate, we may try holding monthly membership meetings.

But the choice is yours. If you want to be left alone and be allowed to read Audubon Magazine in peace, mark that choice on the survey form and your request will be honored. However, if you would like us to offer certain activities or if you would like to share some of your time, please let us know. Whatever you decide, please take a couple of minutes to complete the survey, stick a stamp on it and mail it in. Thank you for your time, President Dave Tylka.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR RETIRING PRESIDENT

Paul Bauer

It was my honor to be elected as your president in April 1987, and it has been my privilege to serve you and this society during the last two years. I am taking this opportunity to thank those who have helped, and to summarize highlights of the last two years.

The membership has grown from 2500 to over 2800 members. We are the largest chapter in Missouri among 8500 members, the largest chapter in our eight state West Central Region, and in the top ten largest chapters among over 500 National Audubon chapters across our nation.

The Bulletin that is so important to keep our members informed will be published eight times this year; last year we published six issues, and in prior years only four issues reached our members. Cis Hager was our editor in 1987 and 1988. Blaine Ulmer has been serving as our editor this year. Please give him your best support. Our wonderful Katherine Chambers takes care of all membership tasks and the massive bulk mailing efforts with her team of helpers.

Monthly programs at the Audubon Education Center are faithfully scheduled by Karen Haller, and cover an exciting range of subjects. At first attendance was small, but maps in the bulletin and persistence in finding good programs has tripled attendance this year. More seating and parking space may be our next (happy) problems. Also we had 16 birding trips to local hot spots.

Maintenance at the Education Center is a major effort, with past president Gerry Miller performing most of the labor. This spring helpers have pitched in to refurbish the cabin so it may be rented again to help support the Center maintenance costs.

Our answering machine gets extensive usage with numerous questions posed by local people and out of town visitors seeking help. Members can call at any time to hear recorded message announcing the next Audubon events. Mary Lou Miller has carried most of this task of responding to requests or finding people able to answer specific questions. Also Mary Lou established an active Education Committee that is getting the Audubon Adventure programs started in several school systems. Now she is seeking corporate support. The BIRDATHON was started by Eugenia Larson as a birding fund raiser to support the Adventure programs. Eugenia also stepped in as most able secretary for us and Mo. Aud. Council. MAC now links all Auduboners in Mo. on common issues.

We are very pleased with the aggressive efforts of the sizable Conservation Committee under the able leadership of Bill Salsgiver. They have provided written responses on numerous issues, and attended several meetings on critical local decisions. Most important they are making our presences felt in the St. Louis area. If you want to help the conservation cause with the balanced Audubon viewpoint, this is your chance.

Our new president, David Tylka, headed an active committee for fifteen months to create and publish a five year strategic plan with specific goals that should provide positive direction to our efforts. We also modified our bylaws slightly to have three vice-presidents rather than one; this should reduce the president's work. Now Dave has the challenge of implementing the new plan. We wish him the very best in this.

This year we were busy with a visit from Peter Berle, our National Audubon President, as host of the Audubon Society of Missouri spring meeting, plus having our annual dinner. Dr. Wm. Toole did another excellent job of managing all the dinner details. Ron Klataske, our regional vice president, provided a program updating the Platte River Campaign.

So why am I leaving after only two years in office. Many of my friends have asked this. We have completed a successful transition to an all volunteer organization after more than 10 years of executive director leadership. This tells me our members are interested in becoming involved if given the opportunity. At this point in my professional career, I am feeling the pressure of business which prevents me from devoting the proper time to Audubon affairs. Also I realized that I had provided over 25 years of volunteer leadership to regional nature organizations, having uniquely served as president of WGNSS, Audubon Society of Missouri, St. Louis Audubon, and as Midwest regional director of the American Birding Association. Since we have exceptional younger leadership in place and performing much of the work, it seems wise to get out of their way and let them perform!

I feel positive we all want the St. Louis Audubon Society to grow better and stronger in all possible ways. Each of us can easily do that by giving our wonderful new leaders our best possible support.

AUDUBON PRINTS - MINT CONDITION

Key West Dove - Plate 167 - value \$2,500 to over \$3,000
Choveller Duck - Plate 327 - value \$2,750 to \$3,000

For sale from:

Mr. Bob Auger
Gottastopandlook
926 North Second St.
St. Charles, Mo. 63301
Phone - 925-1040 (toll call outside St. Charles)

Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mr. Auger is willing to sell these two prints for \$5,000. If you are interested, please call Mr. Auger and tell him you learned about these prints through the St. Louis Audubon Society. If you purchase the prints please call Mary Lou Miller at 389-3969. Mary Lou has Mr. Auger's home phone number if needed.

If Saint Louis Audubon Society helps in the sale of the prints, we will receive 10% of the sale.

THANK YOU!

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of a contribution of \$20.00 from Mark Pfaff.

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKERS

Norman W Halls sent us a note stating that every time he sees a pileated woodpecker it reminds him of an afternoon when he was riding his horse on a ridge overlooking the Meramec River a few miles from Valley Park. He heard a racket behind him and two Ivory-billed woodpeckers flew past him and lit in a tree about 1/4 mile away.

Before you grab your binoculars and head for Valley Park Norman reminds us that this all happened in the early 1930's!!

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMMITTEE

This committee, Al Lodwick - Chairman, will hold its first fall meeting on October 2, beginning at 7:45 PM, at the Oak Bend Branch Library, 842 S. Holmes, Oakland, near I-44 and Big Bend. The program will be a Show and Tell, so bring the best slides from your vacation. The following meetings will be at the same location on the first Mondays of the month.

All Audubon members and the public are invited.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Bill Salsgiver's committee has been studying the plan of the St. Louis Zoo to acquire 10 acres of land adjacent to the present property for the purpose of establishing a research center for the breeding of endangered species. They believe that the desired plot is not spectacular or unique. However, the

Zoo plans are commendable and in keeping with the license of any conservation minded organization. The Zoo has promised minimal adulteration to the trees and vegetation since it is good cover and will provide a buffer between the animals and the traffic in the park. This zoo is one of the most prominent in the world and a great source of education, entertainment and civic pride should have the support of the people of St. Louis and conservation minded organizations whenever possible.

Forest Park is itself an "endangered species". It is open, urban green space and such things are rare and dwindling. Should the Zoo be granted its desire, those 10 acres will be lost from the Park forever. The public will not be admitted to this new area of the Zoo. Forest Park is a great municipal institution and it provides a great source of entertainment for a great number of people with very diverse interests. The Park's heritage must be preserved and protected. Conservation minded groups should seek to protect urban spaces whenever possible.

Will the Park's open spaces be devoured piecemeal? Would the Zoo's interests be better served with the acquisition of a rural satellite site? Should an organization concerned with conservation oppose the Zoo or inhibit the Zoo's growth whose goals are so similar to our own?

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Mary Lou Miller's committee is seeking applications for participation in the youth education program of the National Audubon Society called Audubon Adventures. This program is for elementary school classrooms, grades 3 through 6. Developed and written by professional educators with a special interest in environmental education, Audubon Adventures is issued on a bimonthly basis, and the subscription period coincides with the school year. An enrolled class receives Audubon Adventures newspaper for the children (up to 32 in a classroom), the companion Leader's Guide of background information and activity ideas for the teacher, as well as student membership cards and decals. The class is issued a certificate of participation, suitable for framing and hanging. Each April, Adventures classes celebrate Audubon month with a poster and activity guide provided through membership in the program.

Audubon Adventures covers a wide range of topics, with a mix of conceptually-oriented as well as more specific reading matter. The timely, relevant feature stories and activities are suitable for both short-range and long-term, in-depth and cross-curricular studies.

This program costs \$30 per classroom up to 32 students. The Education Committee is working hard to get corporate sponsorship to introduce this program in as many schools as possible this Fall. Saint Louis Audubon Society will again sponsor this program in as many additional classrooms as our funds will allow. If you would like this program in your classroom or school or would like to sponsor a classroom in your district, please contact Mary Lou Miller, H-389-3969, or B-553-1429.

The Education Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 14 at the Town and Four Apartment Complex Club House at 7:30 PM. Take I-270 to Olive and go west on Olive past Mason Road to Town & Four Parkway - bird on sign (across from Seeger Toyota) and turn left. Follow signs to club house. New members are welcome.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE (cont)

Plans are formulated for programs during July thru October at the Education Center. Even though there will be no program at the Center on the 2nd Sunday of those months the Center will be open from 11 AM to 3 PM. Greeters will be available on those dates. We encourage anyone visiting the Center to arrive at 11 AM and bring a sack lunch.

THESE ARE FRIENDS???

Our Audubon Camp Scholarship recipient, Freda Hill, will not be able to attend the Maine camp this summer. She fell while playing ball with "friends" and broke her leg in three places. We are sorry this happened and promised Freda she will be considered next year for that scholarship. We did try to give this scholarship to another teacher, but summer activities had been already planned by all our other applicants, and it was not possible to work this into their scheduls.

MEMORIAL GIFT

A gift of \$25.00 in the name of Mary O. (Trixie) Troupe donated by Carol A. King.

ADOPT-A-DISPLAY CASE

We have recently purchased some lighted, formica-clad display cases with enclosed glass fronts that are ideal for showing natural history collections or explaining natural concepts. They are at our Education Center if you would like to inspect them. If you have any collections sitting around home accumulating dust that you'd like to display or have any specific topic or concept you'd like to work up in an educational display, here is your chance. If you have a display theme and lack specimens, contact us and we'll try to borrow some for you. Call Mary Lou Miller at 389-3969 or Dave Tylka at 296-1419 for more information.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

- AUGUST 13
SUNDAY 5:30 PM. The Living World Director George Johnson of the St. Louis Zoo will lead an "after hours" tour of this new \$18 million educational facility. After a 15-minute introductory slide program, we will be able to explore the high-tech interactive videos and see the 150 animal species featured in unusual displays. Directions: Park at the North Parking Lot and walk to the Living World Building near the North Entrance to the Zoo.
- SEPTEMBER 10
SUNDAY 1:30 PM. Fall wildflower walk at Mastodon State Park. Meet at the Visitor Center. Art Christ will be the leader. Directions; I-55 south to Imperial exit. Exit right and turn right on outer road north to entrance to the Park on the left.
- SEPTEMBER 15
SUNDAY 1:30 PM. Audubon Education Center in Crescent. Hawk identification workshop. Mark Peters will be the leader. The work-shop designed for beginners and experienced alike. See Mark's article in this issue of this newsletter
- SEPTEMBER 23 Hawkwatch. On hillside across from the main entrance to Tyson Research Center off of I-44 at Antire Road exit. Hopefully, you will have attended the work-shop on Sept. 15th and will be ready to identify all these high-flyers. Mark Peters and helpers will be present. Bring your own binoculars, field guides, and nourishment.
- OCTOBER 8 1:30 PM. Audubon Education Center. "Wildlife at your window" slide show by Lee and Ed Mason about attracting wild birds to urban yards and gardens. Note: New, comfortable seating has been provided for your viewing and listening pleasure.
- OCTOBER 27
FRIDAY 8:00 PM. The first of this season's Film Adventure Series "WILDERNESS TREK THROUGH NEW ZEALAND" by Grant Foster. Grant is native to this small, isolated country with a pleasant climate that supports a unique blend of flora and fauna. Alpine flowers abound as luxuriantly as tropical greenery. Quiet rivers yield to turbulent waterfalls throughout the the Southern Alp range and its highest peak, Mount Cook. From the heron-like kotuko to the plaintive tui, Grant weaves legend and fact into a graceful film-lecture account of this pristine country and its wilderness creatures.

Aids to better photog- raphy

MASTERING PHOTOGRAPHY

LEE MASON

THE QUALITY OF YOUR PICTURES DEPENDS UPON WHAT YOU SEE AND HOW YOU USE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT. IT DOES NOT DEPEND UPON THE PRICE OF YOUR CAMERA OR THE NUMBER OF LENSES YOU CAN AFFORD. YOUR CAMERA SHOULD FEEL GOOD TO USE. BEYOND THAT YOU'LL NEED AN ABUNDANCE OF CURIOSITY, IMAGINATION, ENERGY, AND THE COURAGE TO TAKE CHANCES..

THE REAL SECRET OF ATTAINING PHOTOGRAPHIC EXCELLENCE IS TO SHOOT PICTURES! THAT MAY SOUND ALL TOO SIMPLE, BUT YOU CAN LISTEN TO EXPERTS, READ EVERYTHING AVAILABLE, LEARN THEORIES, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES - BUT THEY WON'T IMPROVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY UNTIL YOU TRY THEM!

"BEST" PHOTOGRAPHS MUST HAVE MORE THAN TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE - THE CONTENT AND VISUAL PRESENTATION MUST BE EQUALLY GOOD. THEREFORE:=-

1. HAVE STRONG VISUAL ORGANIZATION: THE HUMAN EYE TENDS TO ORGANIZE WHAT WE SEE, FOCUSING ONLY ON ONE AREA THOUGH WE MAY BE AWARE OF THE REST OF THE ELEMENTS BEFORE US. EXAMPLE: WE MAY SEE AN ARRESTING PERSON SURROUNDED BY MANY PEOPLE IN A CROWDED STREET, BUT OUR EYES ELIMINATE MOST OF THE CONFUSION BY THROWING A GOOD PORTION OUT OF FOCUS. TO MAKE SURE YOUR SUBJECT IS PRESENTED UNMISTAKABLY IN YOUR PICTURE YOU WILL USE APERTURE, SHUTTER SPEED, LENS WITH PROPER FOCAL LENGTH, AND POINT OF VIEW (YOUR PHYSICAL POSITION) - IN SHORT, THE TOOLS OF PHOTOGRAPHY.

2. HAVE DEFINITE CENTER OF INTEREST: OFTEN PHOTOGRAPHS FALL SHORT BECAUSE THEY INCLUDE SEVERAL SUBJECTS OR FORMS WHICH ARE INTERESTING ENOUGH TO BE THE MAIN SUBJECT. SO YOU, THE PHOTOGRAPHER, MUST GIVE YOUR VIEWER CLEAR DIRECTION. MAKE SURE YOU LEAD THE EYE TO THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IN YOUR PICTURE. AGAIN YOU WILL USE THE TOOLS OF PHOTOGRAPHY MENTIONED IN NO.1.

3. THE RIGHT MOMENT TO SNAP: ACTION SHOTS, WHETHER PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR MOVING OBJECTS OF ANY KIND, CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF THAT ELUSIVE "PRECISE MOMENT." MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACTION ACTUALLY HAVE A "PEAK," A MOMENT OF "FREEZING," AND THAT INSTANT MAKES THE PERFECT SHOT. IF YOU CAN, STUDY YOUR SUBJECT IN MOVEMENT BEFORE SNAPPING YOUR PICTURE. TRY TO RECOGNIZE THAT MOMENT OF "PEAKING" SO YOU WILL SNAP THE PICTURE AT THE RIGHT INSTANT.

4. AVOID CLICHES: YOUR PHOTOGRAPH CAN MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE AND VISUAL ORGANIZATION - AND STILL FALL SHORT. YOU WILL GET A HO-HUM REACTION FROM YOUR VIEWER IF WHAT YOU "SAY" WITH YOUR PICTURE HAS BEEN SAID UMPSTEEN TIMES BEFORE IN THE VERY SAME WAY. AND DON'T USE PHOTOGRAPHIC SANDWICHES, MULTIPLE EXPOSURES, BLURRED ACTION, UNCONVENTIONAL FILMS, OR GRAPHIC ARTS MATERIALS UNLESS APPROPRIATE TO THE PURPOSE!

5. PROJECT YOUR PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW: A CRITICISM THAT APPLIES TO A GREAT MANY PHOTOGRAPHS THAT "DON'T MAKE IT," IS THAT THEY HAVE NO PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW. ONE OF THE REAL PLEASURES OF PHOTOGRAPHY IS THE FEELING THAT WE HAVE SHOWN SOME ASPECT OF A SUBJECT THAT ONLY WE HAVE OBSERVED, OR THAT THE VISUAL EXPERIENCE WE ARE OFFERING IS UNIQUE. AND THAT'S NOT EASY! BEFORE SNAPPING YOUR PICTURE ASK YOURSELF WHAT IT IS ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR SUBJECT THAT MAKES IT AN INTERESTING ONE TO YOU. AND KEEP IT IN MIND AS YOU WORK ON MAKING YOUR PHOTOGRAPH. IF, WHEN LATER VIEWING YOUR PICTURE, YOU FEEL IT CLEARLY EXPRESSES WHAT YOU WANTED IT TO, YOU'VE GOT IT MADE. BUT - NOTE THE WORD - CLEARLY - IT MEANS YOUR VIEWER SHOULD EXPERIENCE THE DESIRED REACTION WITHOUT YOUR HAVING TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING ABOUT THE PICTURE TO THE VIEWER.

Wayne Short, bird-watcher and lecturer died on June 6, 1989 in San Francisco.

Wayne, 76, was honored in October, 1988, when a 12 acre marsh was named in his honor at the north side of the Marais Temps Clair Wildlife Area just north of St. Charles. The area is managed by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

As a youngster he lived on a farm between two marshes about 10 miles from the site that later was to bear his name. He served for eight years as president of the St. Louis Bird Club, now the St. Louis Audubon Society, and later became assistant to the president of the National Audubon Society.

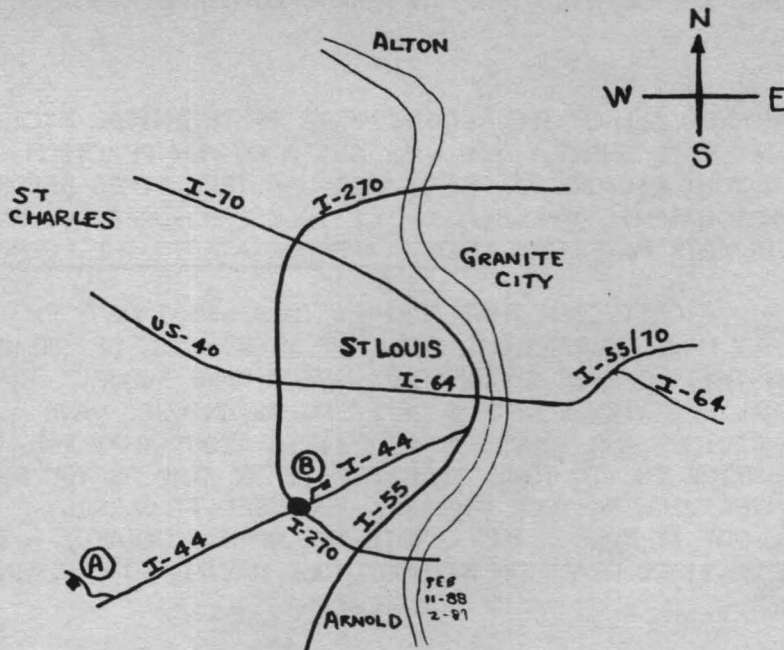
In San Francisco he founded the Audubon Screen Tours and the Audubon Art Tours.

This great environmentalist and friend of many St. Louis birders will be missed.

BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Just a reminder that the Biennial Convention of the National Audubon Society will meet at the Doubletree Hotel in Tucson, Arizona on Sept. 12 - 16, 1989. The theme is "Our Southwest - Challenged by Growth". For good birding and good fellowship try to schedule this meeting.

GETTING TO ST. LOUIS AUDUBON EVENTS



Many chapter activities are conducted by volunteers working together on committees. However several key committees are currently needing additional volunteers to help accomplish specific tasks. The House and Grounds Committee is going to assess chapter facility needs and determine if our present facilities are meeting those needs. The Newsletter Committee needs people who can write, do layout and design and investigate printing options. The Book/Library Committee could use assistance sorting and cataloguing the books in our natural history book collection and determining how members might use these books. Anyone who would like to volunteer for committee work, please call the following chairpeople--

House & Grounds - Jerry Miller, 389-3969

Newsletter - Blaine Ulmer, 966-5425

Book/Library - Paul Bauer, 921-3972

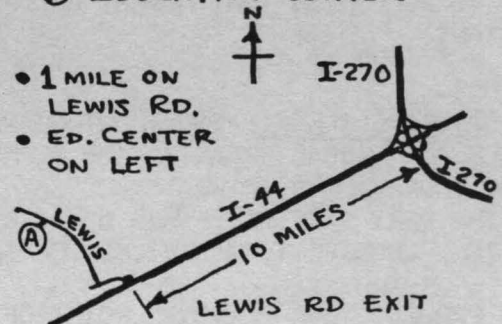
Education - Mary Lou Miller, 389-3969

Conservation - Bill Salsgiver, 225-1490

Hospitality - Katherine Chamber, 863-

9346

① EDUCATION CENTER



② WILDLIFE FILMS

